

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158620

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT:LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH

REFS: (A) USNATO 6032, DTG 141756Z JUN 78; (B) USNATO 6156,
DTG 161836Z JUN 78

1. WE CAN ACCEPT PO/78/79 AS THE INITIAL BASIS FOR
PREPARATION OF REPORTS ON FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE LONG-
TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

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2. ALTHOUGH WE SEE THE ADDITION OF PARAGRAPH 7, "LONG-TERM
DEFENSE PLANNING" AS AN UNNECESSARY COMPLICATING FACTOR, WE
PREFER NOT TO DELAY ACTION ON LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH IN ORDER
TO CLARIFY THE PROBLEM OF NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PLANNING.
WHAT WE WANT TO AVOID IS AN OUTCOME THAT WOULD
TEND TO SUBMERGE THE LTDP, WHICH IS A MINISTERIAL DEFENSE

PLANNING DEVICE FOR DEALING WITH CRITICAL PROBLEMS, IN A LARGER BUREAUCRATIC FRAMEWORK WHERE IT WOULD LOSE BOTH VISIBILITY AND RELEVANCE. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT, IF THE LTDP IS REVIEWED AND UPDATED ANNUALLY, IT WILL FURNISH AN ADEQUATE FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECTING NATO'S CRITICAL REPEAT CRITICAL DEFENSE NEEDS OVER THE MID- AND LONG-TERM.

3. "NATO'S COORDINATED DEFENSE MACHINERY"--WE ASSUME THE PO IS REFERRING TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW SYSTEM (DPC/D (71)-10)--IS NOW LIMITED IN SCOPE. IT DEALS PRIMARILY WITH FORCES, INVOLVES ONLY ONE ASG, AND HAS NO APPRECIABLE IMPACT ON OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH IMPORTANT DEFENSE PLANNING ASPECTS AS COMMUNICATIONS, COMMAND AND CONTROL (NJCEC, NCCDPC), CRISIS MANAGEMENT (COEC), LOGISTIC COOPERATION (SNLC), COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS (CNAD), CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING (SCEPC), AND INFRASTRUCTURE (INFRA). CONSEQUENTLY, WE DOUBT THAT IT CAN READILY BE EXPANDED TO SERVE AS AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE PLANNING MECHANISM. HOWEVER, IF IS AND NMA'S CAN EVEN FIT NAPR/PAPS AND FORCE PLANNING TOGETHER SO THAT THEY ARE AT LEAST COMPLEMENTARY, THIS WOULD BE A MOST DESIRABLE OUTCOME.

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